

Honoring
JOHN GILLAND ABBOTT

On His Retirement

WHEREAS, John Gilland Abbott, Tax Counsel IV, in Headquarters' Legal Department, will retire on July 1, 2004, after twenty-one years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and

WHEREAS, John was born and raised in Houston, Texas; received his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1966; received his law degree from Stanford Law School in 1969; and will receive his master's degree in history from CSU, Sacramento in May 2004; and

WHEREAS, he was admitted to both the State Bar of California and the State Bar of Texas in 1979; and

WHEREAS, John pursued a law career in public service; from 1970 to 1981 he represented National Teachers Association members in Texas civil rights cases, worked for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, and worked for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency; and

WHEREAS, in December 1981, John became legislative counsel for the California Department of Real Estate; and

WHEREAS, in June 1983, he transferred to the Board as a Tax Counsel in the Business Taxes Section and, among other things, provided oral and written advice to taxpayers, tax practitioners, Board staff, and legislative committees on sales and use tax issues; and

WHEREAS, in July 1988, John was promoted to a senior tax counsel specialist position sooner than anyone else promoted previously and in May 1990, was promoted to Supervising Tax Counsel; and

WHEREAS, in July 1991, he transferred to the Appeals Section where he established more effective methods for assigning cases so the section's attorneys and auditors decided higher priority cases more quickly and provided objective advice to the Board Members on business tax appeals; and

WHEREAS, since July 1993, John has been an instructor in multi-state sales and use tax law at the U.C. Davis Summer Tax Institute and developed popular case studies for nationwide participants; and

WHEREAS, in October 2000, he was one of the first attorneys promoted to Tax Counsel IV and later resumed his sales and use tax opinions and legislative assignments for the Business Taxes Division: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to John Gilland Abbott our sincere and grateful appreciation for his dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on his well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to him for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.

Honoring
HELEN A. CONOVER

On Her Retirement

***WHEREAS**, Helen A. Conover, Supervising Tax Auditor I, in the Santa Ana District Office, will retire on May 17, 2004, after more than thirty-six years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and*

***WHEREAS**, Helen began her career with the Board on September 17, 1979, and through diligent effort and dedication to the Board, advanced through the ranks to this present position; and*

***WHEREAS**, she has performed her duties throughout her service to the Board in a conscientious and responsible manner; and*

***WHEREAS**, Helen has consistently responded with ingenuity, imagination, and foresight to the duties and responsibilities given her, fulfilling them with outstanding accuracy and competency; and*

***WHEREAS**, she has set an example of dedication to principle which has been an inspiration to her fellow employees; and*

***WHEREAS**, Helen, in all her endeavors, has reflected great credit upon the Board and the Department of Sales and Use Taxes: Therefore be it*

***RESOLVED**, that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to Helen A. Conover our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her and her family for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.*

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.

Honoring
THERESA DE ANDA
On Her Retirement

WHEREAS, Theresa De Anda, Tax Technician III, in Headquarters' Fuel Taxes Division, will retire on April 16, 2004, after twenty-two years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and

WHEREAS, Theresa began her state career with the Secretary of State on March 15, 1982, as an Office Assistant I with the Political Reform Section and then transferred to the State Board of Equalization, Business Taxes Department, Registration Unit on November 2, 1982; and

WHEREAS, as a result of diligent work and demonstrated ability, she advanced to Tax Technician II with the Account Reference Section on June 6, 1993, and transferred to the Fuel Taxes Division of the Property and Special Taxes Department on April 21, 1995, where she was promoted to Tax Technician III on September 7, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Theresa's knowledge, dedication and expertise in the Board's security process have been drawn upon over the years; her hard work and strong work ethic have contributed to the mission and goals of the State Board of Equalization; and her dedication and team spirit will be greatly missed by her co-workers: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to Theresa De Anda our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.

Honoring
JAMES T. JOHNSON

On His Retirement

WHEREAS, James T. "JJ" Johnson, Data Processing Manager III, in Headquarters' Technology Services Division, retired on November 30, 2003, after twenty-three years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and

WHEREAS, JJ began his career with the Board of Equalization on June 16, 1980, as a Computer Operator in the Computer Operations unit of the Data Processing Division, Sacramento Headquarters Office; and

WHEREAS, as a result of diligent work and demonstrated ability, he advanced to positions of increasing responsibility, first earning appointment to the position of Information Systems Technician and, after ably serving for four months, advancing to Programmer I, Programmer II, and then Associate Programmer Analyst (Specialist) in January 1985; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding leadership skills and proven professionalism, JJ was appointed to Data Processing Manager I in February 1988, Senior Programmer Analyst (Supervisor) in March 1988; and Data Processing Manager III in November 2000; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many years of service, JJ served the people of this state with fairness and dedication: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to James T. Johnson our sincere and grateful appreciation for his dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on his well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to him and his family for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.

Honoring
ESTHER C. MESTER
On Her Retirement

WHEREAS, *Esther C. Mester, Associate Tax Auditor, in the Torrance District Office, retired on March 2, 2004, after more than twenty-four years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and*

WHEREAS, *Esther began her career with the Board as an Auditor I and, through diligent effort and dedication to the Board, advanced through the ranks to this present position; and*

WHEREAS, *she performed her duties throughout her service to the Board in a conscientious and responsible manner; and*

WHEREAS, *Esther consistently responded with ingenuity, imagination, and foresight to the duties and responsibilities given her, fulfilling them with outstanding accuracy and competency; and*

WHEREAS, *she set an example of dedication to principle which was an inspiration to her fellow employees; and*

WHEREAS, *Esther, in all her endeavors, reflected great credit upon the Board and the Sales and Use Tax Department: Therefore be it*

RESOLVED, *that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to Esther C. Mester our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.*

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.

Honoring
DONALD W. RUDISILL

On His Retirement

***WHEREAS**, Donald W. Rudisill, Data Processing Manager III, in Headquarters' Technology Services Division, will retire on December 31, 2004, after twenty-six years of outstanding and meritorious service to the State of California and the Board of Equalization; and*

***WHEREAS**, Don began his career with the State of California on January 9, 1978, as a Graduate Student Assistant at the Department of Finance and then the Department of Youth Authority, and transferred to the Board of Equalization in August 1979, as a Programmer; and*

***WHEREAS**, as a result of diligent work and demonstrated ability, he advanced to positions of increasing responsibility, first earning appointment to the position of Programmer II and, after ably serving the Valuation Unit within the Property Taxes Division, Headquarters office, he advanced to Associate Programmer Analyst, first as a Specialist and then as a Supervisor; and*

***WHEREAS**, in recognition of his outstanding leadership skills and proven professionalism, Don was appointed to Data Processing Manager I in January 1986; Senior Programmer Analyst, Supervisor in February 1998; and Data Processing Manager III in July 2001; and*

***WHEREAS**, throughout his many years of service, Don has served the people of this state with fairness and dedication: Therefore be it*

***RESOLVED**, that we, the Members of the Board, do hereby extend to Donald W. Rudisill our sincere and grateful appreciation for his dedicated service to the State Board of Equalization and to the State of California, our congratulations on his well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to him for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come.*

Adopted at Sacramento, California, this twenty-third day of March 2004, by the State Board of Equalization.